

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06126 022025Z

62

ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9461

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6126

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD CO

SUBJ: TRADE CONSULTATIONS WITH COLOMBIA

REF: A) BOGOTA 4902; B) TOKYO 7185; AND C) BOGOTA 5081

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MINDEVELOPMENT, TOPIC OF TRADE CONSULTATIONS PER REFTEL A CAME UP. I INDICATED TO MIN THAT MY INITIAL SOUNDINGS INDICATED GOUS WOULD BE VERY RECEPTIVE TO THESE KINDS OF TALKS. I ASKED FOR FURTHER INDICATION OF WHAT HE HAD IN MIND REGARDING TIMING. MIN SAID HE WOULD BE OUT OF COUNTRY DURING EARLY JULY AND WOULD SUGGEST THAT CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE LAST WEEK OF JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS THAT THEY TAKE PLACE BEFORE PRESIDENT LOPEZ' TRIP TO US.

2. MINISTER AND I AGREED THAT USEFUL AGENDA WOULD BE TWO MAIN POINTS: A) TRADE LAW AND ITS EFFECT ON FUTURE COLOMBIAN TRADE, COVERING TECHNICAL INTERPRETATIONS AND MEANING OF LAW; AND B) EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND DISCUSSION OF MTN NEGOTIATIONS AND MAIN ISSUES AND STRATEGY THERE.

3. MINISTER SAID THAT HE WANTED TO KEEP AMB TURBAY INFORMED OF HIS DESIRE TO HOLD SUCH TALKS. HE SAID THAT ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO SEND COLOMBIANS TO WASHINGTON FOR SUCH TALKS, THOUGH IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE HERE. I SAID I WOULD EXPLORE FURTHER WHAT MIGHT BE DONE AND BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM.

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4. I BELIEVE WE WOULD HAVE MORE IMPACT ON GOC AND COLOMBIANS
GENERALLY IF TALKS WERE HELD HERE. I THINK IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL
IF FISHLOW COULD AT LEAST INITIATE THESE TALKS HERE PER SUGGESTION
REF B AND STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT. WHERE DO WE STAND ON THIS
SUBJECT AND WHAT MAY I TELL MINISTER?
VAKY

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